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APR 28 2005

DIRECTOR OFFICE
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In re Application of KUROKAWA et al
Application No.: 10/765,098
Filing Date: January 28, 2004
For: STORAGE SYSTEM WITH A DATA
SORT FUNCTION

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:
DECISION ON PETITION
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FOR ACCELERATED
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EXAMINATION UNDER
:
M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII)
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This is a decision on the petition filed January 26, 2005 under 37 CFR §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, to make the above-identified application special.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section VIII, which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 CFR §1.102(d), states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

(A) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);

(B) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status. The election may be made by applicant at the time of filing the petition for special status. Should applicant fail to include an election with the original papers or petition and the Office determines that a requirement should be made, the established telephone restriction practice will be followed. If otherwise proper, examination on the merits will proceed on claims drawn to the elected invention. If applicant refuses to make an election without traverse, the application will not be further examined at that time. The petition will be denied on the ground that the claims are not directed to a single invention, and the application will await action in its regular turn. Divisional applications directed to the nonelected inventions will not automatically be given special status based on papers filed with the petition in the parent application. Each such application must meet on its own all requirements for the new special status;

(C) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. >The pre-examination search must be directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested.< A

search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement >if the claims in the corresponding foreign application are of the same or similar scope to the claims in the U.S. application for which special status is requested<;

(D) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and

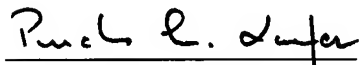
(E) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

With respect to requirement (E), the petition does not contain a detailed discussion of the references to the extent required by 37 CFR 1.111(b) and (c). The petition adequately discusses the distinction between independent claim 1 and references US 2004/0039869, US 2003/0061407, US 2003/0163457, US 2002/0065793, US 6,424,970, and US 2004/0098543. However, the single sentence description of the remaining references is insufficient. Furthermore, the petition contains only a general statement that none of the remaining references disclose essentially all of the limitations of independent claim 1. A general statement that the entirety of an independent claim is not disclosed by the prior art does not provide a sufficient distinction between the claimed invention and each of the cited references. Moreover, the petition does not provide any discussion regarding independent claim 10.

Because the petition fails to satisfy all of the criteria set forth above, the petition to make special is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration must be filed within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mailing date of this decision.

The application will remain in the status of a new application awaiting action in its regular turn.



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